



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Acting Commissioner

June 7, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Pai & Rosenworcel:

On behalf of the educators in the state of New Jersey, I am writing to express our support for Chairman Wheeler's proposal to modernize the E-rate program, prioritize broadband, and provide the funding needed to bring high-speed wireless access to New Jersey's K-12 classrooms.

Our teachers and students are increasingly using online content, educational applications, and teaching tools to improve learning outcomes and prepare our students to succeed in the knowledge economy. Yet today, many schools lack the high-speed Wi-Fi networks that allow for the effective use of technology in the classroom. Upgrading the Wi-Fi in our classrooms is critical to our efforts to bring equal educational opportunity to all of our students and it is imperative that the Commission act this summer to begin closing the Wi-Fi gap immediately.

The Chairman's plan also takes necessary and important steps to update the 18-year-old E-rate program including lowering broadband costs through price transparency and easing the administrative burden on districts by simplifying the application process.

This E-rate order represents a major step forward for connectivity in America's classrooms. We urge you to support Chairman Wheeler's plan on July 11th and then to continue the modernization process by taking the additional steps necessary to increase the affordability of broadband and ensure that every school has the resources it needs to meet the ConnectED connectivity goals.

Thank you for your attention and prompt action on this critical matter for America's students.

Sincerely,

David C. Hespe
Acting Commissioner

Cc: Chairman Wheeler